

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25, 2016
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 2542 HD1
RELATING TO THE AUDITOR

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2542 HD1. This bill requires the auditor to conduct a financial and performance audit of the duties and facilities of the plant quarantine branch. The Department of Agriculture understands the intent of this measure and offers comments.

The department agrees with the statements on the importance in preventing these pests from entering Hawaii and with the negative impact of invasive species. The department has continued to secure outside funding for its biosecurity program bringing in \$4.5 million in the past two fiscal years. This is to prevent the entry and establishment of pests such as brown tree snake, coconut rhinoceros beetle, red imported fire ant, and Africanized bees, among others. The department has also continued to assess the effectiveness of its inspection program at the ports of entry. The plant quarantine branch conducts periodic enhanced inspections to assess the risks of all agricultural commodities imported. Based on these assessments the inspectors focus inspections on the high risk commodities, thus not wasting efforts on the low risk commodities. These low risk commodities are inspected less frequently. This has allowed the branch to be more effective in its inspections and interceptions of



invasive species. This bill cites a decrease in insect interceptions from 3,416 in FY13 to 1,034 in FY15 and considers this as a failure with the branch (the actual numbers are 2,475 in FY13 and 1,595 in FY15). These numbers are not a failure but actually a testament to the effectiveness of targeting inspections to high risk commodities.

The department feels that the Plant Quarantine Branch has worked hard to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations over the last three years. The Department is open to an audit to assess this effectiveness and to point out new directions that can be taken to improve on this. We would like to note that such an audit will require personnel to take time from their everyday job duties and current resources in the Plant Quarantine Branch are limited.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

HTFC

Hawaii Tropical Flower Council

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016
11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

HB2542 HD1 RELATING TO THE AUDITOR.

We SUPPORT House Bill 2542 HD1.

We have some concerns with the Department of Agriculture's administration's transparency and communication. It has come to our attention that the department has failed to provide annual reports required by law for the last three years. Furthermore the pest interception rate has fallen in the last two years. We believe this is because inspectors are inspecting less and are mainly focusing on propagative plants. This is why we feel an audit is necessary.

It is important that we have a comprehensive implementation of Hawaii's Biosecurity program. A program that is needed and is essential for our industry. And the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach to a comprehensive implementation is to build on the Biosecurity program we have.

This is an important and needed program that we need working correctly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thong Teng Neo". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thong Teng Neo
Vice President
Hawaii Tropical Flower Council

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:20 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2542 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

HB2542

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Ass.	Support	No

Comments: Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016 State of Hawaii COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016 11:00 A.M. Conference Room 308 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street A bill for an act HB2542 HD1 RELATING TO THE AUDITOR. We SUPPORT House Bill 2542 HD1. We have some concerns with the Department of Agriculture's administration's transparency and communication. It has come to our attention that the department has failed to provide annual reports required by law for the last three years. Furthermore the pest interception rate has fallen in the last two years. We believe this is because inspectors are inspecting less and are mainly focusing on propagative plants. This is why we feel an audit is necessary. It is important that we have a comprehensive implementation of Hawaii's Biosecurity program. A program that is needed and is essential for our industry. And the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach to a comprehensive implementation is to build on the Biosecurity program we have. This is an important and needed program that we need working correctly.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016

11:00 A.M.

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

HB2542 HD1 RELATING TO THE AUDITOR.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **SUPPORTS** House **Bill 2542 HD1**.

We are thoroughly frustrated with the administration's lack of transparency and communication. The department has failed to provide annual reports required by law for the last three years. The pest interception rate has fallen in the last two years because: 1) inspectors are inspecting less and are focusing on propagative plants. Therefore, we feel the audit is necessary.

A comprehensive implementation of Hawaii's Biosecurity program is an action that is sorely needed and is essential for our industry. HFNA believes that building upon the current, though stalled, Biosecurity System, would be the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach. We also hope to be able to provide input as an industry. As in the past, when we met regularly to discuss issues and worked together on initiatives.

This is an important and essential program, which has been stalled for too long.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

We thank you for your consideration of HB2542HD1. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sarahentm@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2542 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM



HB2542

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We SUPPORT House Bill 2542 HD1. We have some concerns with the Department of Agriculture's administration's transparency and communication. It has come to our attention that the department has failed to provide annual reports required by law for the last three years. Furthermore the pest interception rate has fallen in the last two years. We believe this is because inspectors are inspecting less and are mainly focusing on propagative plants. This is why we feel an audit is necessary. It is important that we have a comprehensive implementation of Hawaii's Biosecurity program. A program that is needed and is essential for our industry. And the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach to a comprehensive implementation is to build on the Biosecurity program we have. This is an important and needed program that we need working correctly.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 3:58 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2542 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM*



HB2542

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE



Orchid Growers Of Hawaii

P.O. Box 4153 Hilo Hawaii 96720
Email : info@ogoh.org Website : www.ogoh.org

February 24, 2016

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016 State of Hawaii

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Thursday February 25, 2016

11:00 am
Conference Room 308
State Capitol

HB2542 HD1 RELATING TO THE AUDITOR

We Strongly **SUPPORT** House **Bill 2542 HD1**

I am the current President of the Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH) a statewide association of more than 60 commercial cut flower and potted plant Orchid Nurseri

We have some concerns with the Department of Agriculture's administration's transparency and communication. It has come to our attention that the department has failed to provide annual reports required by law for the last three years. Furthermore the pest interception rate has fallen in the last two years. We believe this is because inspectors are inspecting less and are mainly focusing on propagative plants. This is why we feel an audit is necessary.

It is important that we have a comprehensive implementation of Hawaii's Biosecurity program. A program that is needed and is essential for our industry. And the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach to a comprehensive implementation is to build on the Biosecurity program we have.

This is an important and needed program that we need working correctly.

Sincerely,

Elton Mow
President,
Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH)

Elton Mow
OGOH President